

Claims

1. A multifunctional operating device (12), in particular for installation in a vehicle, with a rotary switch (16) for selection of functions which may be displayed in a display field (40) on a monitor unit (38), characterized in that the multifunctional operating device (12) has a combination made up of the rotary switch (16) and a plurality of press switches (18), the press switches (18) being mounted around the rotary switch (16), in that the press switches (18) are configured and/or mounted in such a way that they are haptically distinguishable, and in that the arrangement of display fields (42) on the monitor unit (38) which are associated with the press switches (18) correspond at least schematically to the arrangement of the press switches (18).
2. The multifunctional operating device (12) as specified in Claim 1, wherein the position of the display field (40) associated with the rotary switch (16) relative to that of the display fields associated with the press switches (18) corresponds at least schematically to the position of the rotary switch (16) relative to the pressure switches (18).
3. The multifunctional operating device (12) as specified in one of the foregoing claims, wherein a minimum of one indicator symbol may be shown within a display field (40, 42, 44, 52), it being possible for one function control device, one function control element, one function, or function value to be symbolized by one indicator symbol or the indicator symbol being a written character.

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4. The multifunctional operating device (12) as specified in Claim 3, wherein the indicator symbol in the display field (42) associated with the press switch (18) may be selected by operation of one of the press switches (18), and in particular may be optically enhanced.
 5. The multifunctional operating device (12) as specified in one of Claims 3 or 4, wherein additional indicator symbols may be called up in the display fields (42) associated with the press switches (18) by operation of one of the press switches (18).
 6. The multifunctional operating device (12) as specified in one of Claims 3 to 5, wherein a menu containing at least one indicator symbol may be called up by operation of one of the press switches (18), it being possible to display the menu in the display field (40) associated with the rotary switch (16).
 7. The multifunctional operating device (12) as specified in one of Claims 3 to 6, wherein one of the indicator symbols or the indicator symbol in the display field (40) associated with the rotary switch (16) may be selected by rotation of the rotary switch (16), and in particular by be optically enhanced.
 8. The multifunctional operating device (12) as specified in Claim 7, wherein, as a result of operation of a confirm switch (16) after selection of the indicator symbol by the rotary switch (16), the function control device or the function control element may be activated, the function may be executed, the value of the value may be converted, or the written character may be set.

9. The multifunctional operating device (12) as specified in one of Claims 7 or 8, wherein, as a result of operation of one or more of the confirm switches (16), a submenu which is associated with the indicator symbol selected by the rotary switch (16) and which comprises at least one indicator symbol, may be displayed within display field (40) associated with the rotary switch (16).
10. The multifunctional operating device (12) as specified in one of the foregoing claims, wherein, as a result of operation of one of the press switches (18), a or the function control device or a or the function control element may be activated or a or the function may be executed or a or the function value may be converted.
11. The multifunctional operating device (12) as specified in one of the foregoing claims, wherein the multifunctional operating device (12) has at least one selector switch by means of which a or an additional function control device to be operated may be selected, the selector switch (20) being in the form of a rotary, press, or sliding switch.
12. The multifunctional operating device (12) as specified in Claim 11, wherein, after operation of the selector switch (20), the function control device selected may be presented on the monitor unit (38) as an indicator symbol within a display field (44) provided for this purpose.
13. The multifunctional operating device (12) as specified in one of Claims 11 or 12, wherein, after operation of the selector switch (20), the function control elements and/or functions

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and/or function values may be displayed as indicator symbols within the display fields (42) which are associated with the press switches (18).

14. The multifunctional operating device (12) as specified in one of the foregoing claims, wherein the rotary switch (16) is also a press switch.
15. The multifunctional operating device (12) as specified in Claim 14, wherein the rotary switch (16) is a or the confirm switch (16).
16. The multifunctional operating device (12) as specified in one of the foregoing claims, wherein the multifunctional operating device may be use to operate at least one or at least the function control device, which is a radio set and/or a compact cassette unit and/or and/or a TV set and/or a compact disc player and/or a vehicle computer and/or a telephone and/or a theft prevention system and/or an air conditioning unit control unit and/or a time control and time display unit and/or a navigation system and/or a traffic information system and/or a mail system and/or a speed control system.
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